

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

Sub C1

9. (Once amended) A maintenance cartridge, comprising:
an outward form by which a detection system of a recording apparatus can identify the
maintenance cartridge,
wherein the outward form distinguishes the maintenance cartridge from an ink cartridge.

Please add the following new claims:

Sub C1

20. (New) The maintenance cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one
plug element prevents liquid from flowing out of the ink supply needle from the ink jet recording
head.

21. (New) The maintenance cartridge as claimed in claim 20, wherein the at least one
plug element is contained in the maintenance cartridge.

22. (New) The maintenance cartridge as claimed in claim 9, further comprising:
at least one plug element,
wherein the maintenance cartridge is mounted on the recording apparatus,
wherein the recording apparatus comprises a recording head coupled to an ink supply
passage, and
wherein the at least one plug element prevents liquid from flowing out of the ink supply
passage from the recording head.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/896,116

23. (New) The maintenance cartridge as claimed in claim 22, wherein the at least one plug element is contained in the maintenance cartridge.

24. (New) The ink jet recording apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the plug element prevents liquid from flowing out of the ink supply needles from the ink jet recording head.

25. (New) The ink jet recording apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the plug element is contained in the maintenance cartridge.

26. (New) The ink jet recording apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the at least one plug element prevents liquid from flowing out of the at least one ink supply needles from the recording head.

27. (New) The ink jet recording apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein the at least one plug element is contained in the at least one maintenance cartridge.

28. (New) The ink jet recording apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the plug elements prevent liquid from flowing out of the ink supply needles from the recording head.